THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Not to the knowledge of this Ministry.

(c) and (d) Rails, under traffic, some times get over-stressed and result into fracture. There are various reasons for over-stressing of rails. Excessive hydrogen content in rail steel is also one of the causes leading to rail fractures.

The permissible hydrogen content in rail has been reduced to 2ppm and is well comparable with world standards. The rails in Bhilai Steel Plant are being manufactured to this specification.

Water/Telephone lines under Rail Tracks

†1814. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals which are pending for laying telephone and water pipe lines under railway tracks in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) by when the sanction/aproval would be granted to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) There are 93 proposals in all, for laying telephone lines and water pipelines pending with the Railways in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Each proposal is individually examined and approval is accorded after due examination i.e. feasibility of the proposal etc. and observing of the formalities by the party i.e. deposit of due fees etc. Therefore, no target can be set for granting of approval to the pending proposals.

Track Renewal

1815. SHRI TARINIKANTA ROY:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many kilometres of track renewal have been completed during the last five years, year-wise:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.